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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 17, 2002

BY FAX

Dr. Kathleen Hawk Sawyer  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20534  
Fax-202-514-6878

Dear Dr. Hawk Sawyer,

I am writing to express my continuing concerns over the treatment of Mr. Rabih Haddad. Mr. Haddad continues to suffer infringements upon his civil rights while he is awaiting his free and open trial, which was won for him in August, over the objections of the Bush Administration and the Justice Department. Mr. Haddad's conditions of confinement are unacceptable and are not at all usual for prisoners to have to endure and I urge you to immediately address this situation.

Mr. Haddad has several grievances that must be addressed:

- Mr. Haddad has been denied access to religious services. Other prisoners are able to receive Saturday or Sunday services and are allowed visits from ministers, while Mr. Haddad has not been allowed these services. Mr. Haddad requires access to Friday prayer services and Quran sessions, as well as visits from an Imam.
- Mr. Haddad is not allowed contact visits with his wife and children. He should be allowed weekly contact with his wife and children in visits an hour in duration.
- Mr. Haddad has not had adequate supervision by medical personnel. He was given antibiotics because of severe headaches and nosebleeds but he has not been seen by a medical professional since mid-August. Mr. Haddad should be monitored by a health professional at least twice a week.

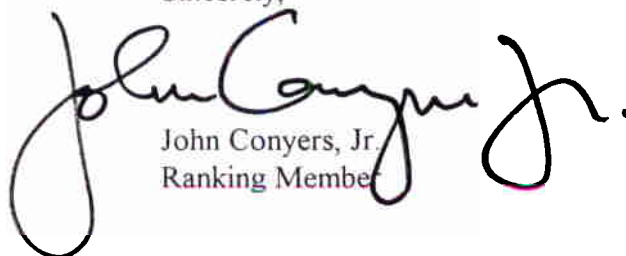
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- Mr. Haddad has not been given regular exercise opportunities. He is allowed to go into the exercise yard only once or twice a month. He should be allowed the use of an indoor gymnasium or the outdoor exercise yard for at least one hour a day for at least three days a week.
- Mr. Haddad's mail is also being screened and items are being arbitrarily removed. Among those items have been photographs, informational leaflets, newspaper articles, and letters written in English. Mr. Haddad should be provided with a list of prohibited items so that he may inform his associates about the items on this list. Once this list is given, it should not be deviated from.
- Mr. Haddad is being denied access to clocks or knowledge about the time of day. This is a highly unusual practice and interferes with Mr. Haddad's ability to worship on a regular schedule. This practice also has a disorienting effect on Mr. Haddad. Mr. Haddad should be allowed to wear a wristwatch or to have a clock within view of his cell.

These requests are neither outrageous nor unusual. Mr. Haddad, though imprisoned, still retains his basic rights. In fact, Mr. Haddad has yet to be convicted of any crime, which makes this assault on his rights even more heinous. I have fought the Justice Department and the Bush Administration over Mr. Haddad's right to have a fair and open trial. I won this case despite the Bush Administration's attempt to hold itself above the Constitution. Their actions threatened to make a mockery of our system of justice, and sent a terrible signal to the international communities regarding our treatment of foreign nationals. Now he is not only being mistreated by not being given a trial, he is also being mistreated within the prison itself. This is an unacceptable situation which must be remedied.

Mr. Haddad is being held at the Chicago detention facility located at 71 West Van Buren Street. Please respond to these grievances as quickly as possible. Please contact Paul Lonardo-Roy of my staff at 202-225-6906 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Conyers, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member